

42

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
25 May 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Repercussions of the Middle East
Crisis on US Interests

1. The view is widespread in the Arab world that the US has sided openly with Israel in the current Middle East crisis.

2. The US position on the right of free passage through the Gulf of Aqaba is meeting universal condemnation by the Arabs. Any action relative to a forceful maintenance of this position will seriously jeopardize US interests. A direct military involvement with any Arab state, under any pretext, will be disastrous to the US position in the Arab States.

3. Already the Arab states normally regarded as pro-Western are trimming their sails and lining up with Nasir in their public postures. Jordan has mobilized its army, the Kuwaiti foreign minister has stated that Kuwait will cut off oil in support of Egypt, and the Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister (King Faysal is Foreign Minister) has stated that his country will support Nasir in any move to block passage to Israel in the Strait of Tiran. Even the British-protected South Arabian Federation is under pressure to line up with Nasir.

4. The General Federation of Arab Petroleum Workers has called on its members to sabotage oil installations in the event of Western intervention on Israel's behalf. The Arab Trade Union Congress has called for a boycott of Western shipping at Arab ports, especially at Aden, in the event of Arab-Israeli hostilities.

25X1

25X1

Self-initiated

STAT

25 May 67

(DATE)